

JOHN HAY, STATESMAN, AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST

Colonel John Hay, statesman, author and journalist, attained the highest rank in each of these varied fields of effort. He was a native of Indiana and came of sturdy Scotch ancestry. The first of the family to come to America was John Hay, who had served in the army of the Elector of the Rhine Palatinate. This John Hay settled in Virginia in 1750. His son Adam served in the Revolutionary Army and was a personal friend of Washington. His son John married and reared a family in Kentucky, but, becoming convinced that his home should be in a free instead of a slave State, he removed to Illinois with all his sons, save the eldest, Charles, who was studying medicine. When Charles received his degree he settled in Salem, Ind. There he was married, in 1831, to a daughter of the Rev. David A. Leonard, a graduate of Brown University. Ten years later Dr. Hay removed to Warsaw, Ind., where he spent the rest of his life.

His fourth son, John, the future Secretary of State, was born at Salem, on October 8, 1839. After receiving his preparation for college at Warsaw and at Springfield, Ill., young Hay went to Brown University, where he was graduated in 1858, taking high rank in English composition in a class containing many fine scholars. Returning to the West, he entered the law office of an uncle, Malcolm Hay, in Springfield, Ill., an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln. He was admitted to the bar in 1861, but had already won his political spurs in the Lincoln-Douglas campaign of 1860 as a writer and a speaker. When President Lincoln went to Washington to be inaugurated in 1861 he took the youthful lawyer with him as assistant private secretary, associated with John G. Nicolay. They were associated throughout the remainder of Mr. Lincoln's life save for a few months when Secretary Hay was adjutant and aide-de-camp to the President and later served in the army on the staffs of Generals Hunter and Gilmore, gaining the rank of colonel by brevet. His relations with Mr. Lincoln were of the closest character, and almost those of a son to a father. Many missions of a delicate and confidential nature were intrusted to him by the President.

After the assassination of Lincoln, Colonel Hay went to Paris as Secretary of Legation, serving there while Mr. Nicolay was United States Consul in the same city. After three years at Paris, Colonel Hay went to Vienna as Secretary of Legation and charge d'affaires for a year, and in 1869 he became Secretary of Legation at Madrid. In 1870 he returned to this country, and for five years he was an editorial writer on The Tribune staff, writing principally on foreign and political topics. In 1874 Colonel Hay was married to the daughter of Amasa Stone, of Cleveland, and the following year he gave up newspaper work and removed to that city. He had already published his "Pike County Ballads," some of which were written when he was in college, and "Castilian Days," the fruit of his stay in Spain. A popular novel, "The Bread-Winners," the scene of which is laid in Cleveland, was attributed to him, but he never acknowledged its authorship.

From 1879 to 1881 Colonel Hay was First Assistant Secretary of State in the administration of President Hayes, under Secretary Evans. After resigning, on May 3, 1881, he was president of the International Sanitary Congress at Washington.

In the spring of 1881 Whitelaw Reid, in arranging to go abroad for the summer, put the editorial direction of The Tribune in the hands of his friend and former associate, Colonel Hay. Instead of enjoying a period of repose following the installation of a new President, the country was immediately disturbed by the resignations of Senators Conkling and Platt and a bitter controversy in the Republican party. Then ensued the shooting of President Garfield by Guitauze and the long months of illness which ended in the death of the President. During that trying time Colonel Hay was acting editor-in-chief of The Tribune. He then devoted himself, in conjunction with Mr. Nicolay, to carrying out a purpose they had long cherished of writing a complete life of Abraham Lincoln, their purpose to do so having been formed while associated with the President and having his approval. They spent a number of years in collecting the material, and the publication of the work was begun in "The Century Magazine" in 1887. After it had run for two years, the work was issued in ten volumes, taking its place as the authoritative biography of the martyred President. The works of Mr. Lincoln were afterward compiled by the editors in two volumes.

After sixteen years of exclusive devotion to literary pursuits, chiefly at Washington, Colonel Hay re-entered public life in March, 1897, when President McKinley appointed him Ambassador to Great Britain to succeed Thomas F. Bayard. Taking up his duties with the familiarity secured by his previous experience in the diplomatic service, he performed them with great skill. He promoted the friendly feeling between the two countries previous to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, and his work was regarded as a triumph of discreet tact. His speeches in London called forth the highest commendation, and he made the most favorable social impression.

Ambassador Hay was recalled to Washington in September, 1898, to succeed Judge William R. Day as Secretary of State, a post in the government service up to which all his previous training led. His departure from the London capital was much regretted by all who had been associated with him, but his pre-eminent fitness for the Department of State was everywhere admitted. His administration of affairs was soon found to be marked by vigor, tact and sagacious foresight. Many important negotiations were successfully conducted under Secretary Hay's direction in the closing years of President McKinley's administration and the first term of President Roosevelt. The maintenance of the "open door" policy in the Far East, and the consequent postponement of the threatened dismemberment of the Chinese Empire, was considered a most notable diplomatic achievement. He was not content with verbal assurances from the European powers, but secured written guarantees. When the Boxer troubles broke out and the legations at Peking were imperiled, Secretary Hay secured the assurance that the foreigners in the Chinese capital were alive, and a disavowal from the Chinese government that it was responsible for the disturbances and assurances that it would accept foreign aid to quell them. The outcome was the recognition of the extending influence of the United States in world affairs. Secretary Hay negotiated the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in regard to an interoceanic canal, but when it failed of ratification he did not permit this incident to disturb the friendly relations of the two countries, but concluded another treaty, which was ratified. He also succeeded in obtaining the settlement of the Alaskan boundary dispute and in securing the solution of the Samoan problem, the interests in the islands being divided between this country and Germany, England withdrawing from them. While the British were fighting the Boers in South Africa Secretary Hay used his good offices to secure the neutrality of the Continental powers. He negotiated a notable series of reciprocity treaties with Argentina, Cuba, France, Germany and the British West Indies. The long standing dispute with Turkey over questions arising from the Armenian disturbances was settled by Secretary Hay and indemnity secured from the Sublime Porte.

In his service as Secretary of State, Mr. Hay negotiated more than fifty treaties with foreign countries. He took charge just at the close of the Spanish war and had many matters of detail to dispose of. A series of extradition treaties was negotiated by him. He also secured the adoption of an important class of treaties to settle the claims of United States citizens against foreign countries. One of these was the submission of the Pious Fund dispute to the Hague Court of Arbitration, with the result of a decision in favor of the United States. The negotiation with Great Britain over the Isthmian canal question resulted in the abrogation of the privileges claimed by England under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and an agreement to let the United States act alone in controlling and policing the canal. In promoting the Panama Canal, when the action of the Colombian government threatened to put a stop to the enterprise and Panama seceded, the prompt recognition of the new state led to the negotiations which have made the great interoceanic waterway possible. The negotiation of a more favorable canal treaty and the securing of the canal zone for the United States will always stand to the credit of Secretary Hay.

The most notable success of the diplomacy of Secretary Hay was his action in securing the adoption of the "open door" policy by the European governments which had secured treaty ports in China. He insisted that all these ports should be open to all the world on equal terms. This put an end to the plan for the partition of China and preserved the rights of all countries which have commercial treaties with her. One of the countries which this policy especially affected was Russia in her relation to Manchuria. In 1902, when Rumania threatened all Jews within her borders, Secretary Hay made his "plea for the Jews," that the European powers interfere and see that the Jews were protected. He settled the dispute over the Venezuela claims by securing their reference to the Hague Tribunal, while upholding the Monroe Doctrine when Germany and Great Britain were attempting to enforce their claims.

When the war broke out between Russia and Japan Secretary Hay renewed his efforts to maintain the integrity of China and to confine the operations to Manchuria, addressing a note to the powers in February, 1904, on this subject.

Secretary Hay addressed a note to the powers in December of last year calling for another conference at The Hague in regard to the extension of arbitration treaties.

The significant note of Secretary Hay's diplomatic policy was candor, and his open methods often surprised Old World diplomats. Before his direct and candid statements of purpose the usefulness of indirect and intriguing methods was apparent, and he was able to secure his ends by the firmness and sincerity with which he pressed forward in the path he had marked out. His hand guided the developments that brought the United States to the front as a world power and secured her present place among the nations of the earth. He had no sympathy with the indirect methods of the old-time school of diplomats, and proceeded with frankness but firmness to secure his ends.

In his political beliefs and utterances Mr. Hay was always a staunch Republican. The birth of the party practically coincided with the beginning of his interest in political affairs, and his experience in the strenuous Lincoln campaign and the stirring war days served to intensify and strengthen his early faith. He was a staunch protectionist, and heartily supported the Dingley tariff. He was fond of recounting the achievements of the party of his faith. When its semi-centennial was celebrated at Jackson, Mich., on June 6, 1904, Secretary Hay was chosen as the principal speaker. In the course of his address he said:

Who of us that were living then will forget the ardent enthusiasm of those days? It was one of those periods, rare in the life of any nation, when men forget themselves, and in spite of habit, of interest and of prejudice, follow their consciences wherever they may lead. In the clear, keen air that was abroad the best men of the country drew deeper breaths and rose to a moral height they had not before attained.

The movement was universal. Sumner in Ohio, Bates in Missouri, Blair in Maryland, all sent forth their appeal to the higher motive; and in Illinois, where the most popular man in the State boldly and cynically announced: "I don't care whether slavery is voted up or voted down," a voice new to the nation replied: "There are some of us who do care. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." And Abraham Lincoln came upon the field, not to leave it until he was triumphant and died.

If there is one thing more than another in which we Republicans are entitled to a legitimate pride it is that Lincoln was our first President; that we believed in him, loyally supported him while he lived, and that we have never lost the right to ourselves his followers. There is not a principle avowed by the Republican party to-day which is out of harmony with his teachings or inconsistent with his character.

In his mastery of the English language, Colonel Hay's natural style was perfected by his literary work. He had a freshness of style not often found in state papers, and his public addresses possessed literary charm as well as eloquence of utterance. He was not a frequent campaign speaker, but was always listened to by throngs. In the campaign last fall he made a noteworthy speech in Carnegie Hall. He also spoke in October of last year before the peace conference in Boston. In July of last year the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor was bestowed on him by the French government.

It was in his poetry that Colonel Hay won his literary spurs. He had begun to write it while an undergraduate, and when on The Tribune he published some of his work in its columns. His first "Pike County Ballads" with the subtitle "Jim Budo of the Prairie Belle" and "Little Breeches," gained wide popularity, and the volume containing them and other poems was issued in 1871. The same year saw the publication of "Castilian Days," a new issue of which recently appeared. Another volume, entitled "Poems," appeared in 1890. He also translated Emilio Castelar's "Treatise on the Republican Movement in Europe." His monumental work, however, was the authoritative "Life of Abraham Lincoln," which covers the history of this country from 1830 to 1865.

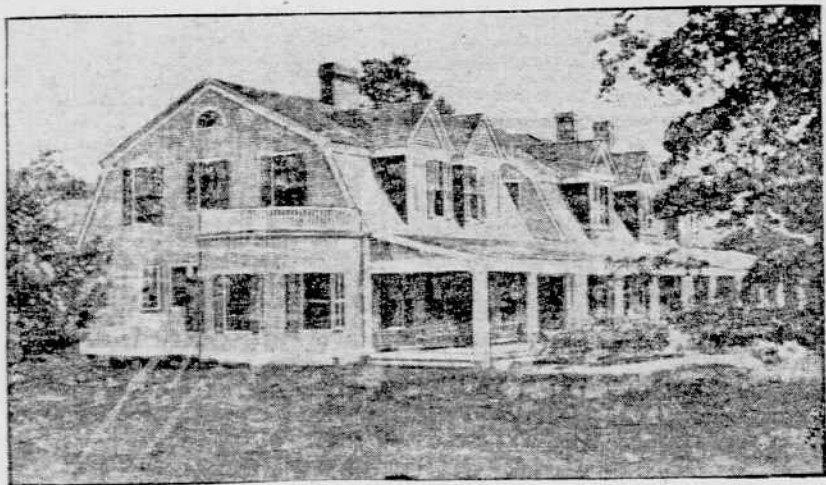
Secretary Hay had a fine house in Washington at 16th and Lafayette Square. He also had a summer home at Lake Sunapee, N. H. He was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Washington, which he and his family attended when in that city. He received the degree of LL. D. from Brown, Yale, Harvard,

Western Reserve and Princeton universities. Besides his books, he was the author of a number of important addresses and a hymn written for the Christian Endeavor convention in Washington in 1876. It is as follows:

Lord, from far-severed climes we come
To meet at last in Thee our home.
Thou who hast been our guide and guard
Be still our hope, our rich reward.
Defend us, Lord, from every ill;
Strengthen our hearts to do Thy will.
In all we plan and all we do
Still keep us to Thy service true.
Oh, let us hear the inspiring word
Which they of old at Horeb heard.
Breathe to our hearts the blessed command:
"Go onward and possess the land!"
Thou who art Light, shine on each soul;
Thou who art Truth, each mind control;
Open our eyes and make us see
The path which leads by Thee and Thee!

Colonel Hay was married in 1874 to Miss Clara L. Stone, of Cleveland. They had two sons and two daughters. The elder son, Adelbert, who was graduated at Yale in 1898 and had entered the diplomatic service, was killed by a fall from a window when attending the triennial reunion of his class at New-Haven. The elder daughter, Helen, was married to Payne Whitney in 1902. She is the author of a considerable number of poems.

The second daughter, Alice, is the wife of James A. Wadsworth, Jr., of Genesee, N. Y. In March of this year Secretary Hay went



THE FELS.
Secretary Hay's summer home, in New-Hampshire, where he died.

abroad much broken in health. He sailed for the Mediterranean on the Celtic. His friends were alarmed by the fact that he nearly collapsed when going on board, but wireless telegraphic news soon came that he was much improved, and when the vessel reached Gibraltar he was reported practically recovered. After reaching Italy he went on to Bad Nauheim, Germany, where he took the baths. In returning he stopped for brief periods in Paris and London, and he reached this country a fortnight ago. After a few days at the Long Island house of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney, he went to Washington and resumed his duties at the State Department for a week. He was warmly welcomed by his associates in public life, and especially by the members of the diplomatic corps. He regarded himself as greatly improved by his trip abroad. To a friend he said: "I was an ill man—far worse than I feel now. I feel much better. I feel rested now, and perhaps with care I may have a few more years."

A week ago yesterday he went to his summer home, The Fels, on Lake Sunapee, whither his wife had preceded him. His son Clarence was with him. The journey was a fatiguing one and the Secretary caught cold. The rest was his scrupulous regard for the rights of others and to treat with specialists were summoned from Boston. The remedies used proved efficacious, and an operation which had been proposed was dispensed with. It was reported by physicians that Mr. Hay was suffering from a chill, and the attack was similar to one which he had experienced four years before. The members of the family were reassured, and Mrs. Payne Whitney that there was no reason for the postponement of their European trip, on which they had planned to sail on Tuesday of last week, and they sailed that day.

PERSONAL TRAITS.

How Mr. Hay Appeared in Newspaper Work, College and Public Life.

In regard to the character of Secretary Hay, a recent writer says:
A man of profound convictions, Secretary Hay has carried his religion into his daily life; not that one ever hears him talking it or setting up a moral code that he would force upon his neighbor, but that he got his religion from his life. The foundation of all religion, it has been said, is charity and justice, and those two cardinal virtues find their full measure in Secretary Hay. His innate sense of duty and his scrupulous regard for the rights of others follow as a natural corollary to his boundless charity, for the charitable man must necessarily be the just man. It is this characteristic which enabled Secretary Hay to take his place among the diplomatic triumphs and which has made his administration of the State Department ever memorable in American history.

One of his associates when he was an editorial writer for The Tribune was E. V. Smalley, and in writing of him in later years he had this to say:

When I first knew John Hay we were fellow workers on The New-York Tribune in the old building, on the corner of Spruce-st. and Rivington-st. The square at that time was a low, shabby, pulled down to make room for the first of the modern tall structures erected in New-York. The main editorial room was redolent of smoke, and the writers crowded in, as they were, a number of the brightest men in American journalism. The ceiling was low and the windows were cobwebbed and flyspecked. The little desks, grimy from long use, stood so close together that the writers could almost touch elbows. On one side of me sat Bayard Taylor, the poet, and on the other George Ripley, the greatest and kindest of the literary critics of his day. Other occupants of the room were John Hay, John R. G. Hazard, our best all round leader writer, Charles C. Congdon, Isaac H. Bromley, who has never been excelled on the New-York press as a satirist and humorist, and many others. Burlingame, now and for many years past the Editor of "Scribner's." Hay's work was general editorial writing, and he was especially strong in national politics and foreign affairs.

In writing of his college days, William L. Stone, a classmate at Brown, has this to say of John Hay:

He at once took high rank as a writer. This was evident not only from his essays in the departments of rhetoric and the various sciences, but in all those studies in which good writing, subjected to a thorough knowledge of that subject, is required—above the fact that whenever anything above the ordinary was needed in the way of composition his services were at once drawn upon. This, too, was more noticeable when it is recalled that the class of which he was a member was made up of an unusual number of brilliant men, excelling especially in composition, and many of whom have since become eminent in different walks of life, particularly that of journalism. Upon his first entering the university, the intellectual bulwarks of his class, mistaking these traits for weakness, were disposed to look down upon the newly entered collegian from Illinois. It was but a little while, however, when his soaring words gave them pause. During his entire college life the stand in scholarship taken by Hay among his classmates was of a high order. Nor did his industry (although his ability rendered that habit of less value to him than to others) prevent his giving friendly aid to members of his class not so gifted.

Regarding Hay as a poet, his "Pike County Ballads," depicting a peculiar phase of Western life, and his published some years since, gave promise of his author's eventually attaining a high rank in that department of letters; and to his friends it has always been a source of much disappointment that he did not woo the muse more zealously. Hay's faculty of rapid composition was simply marvellous, and would scarcely be believed, even by myself, had I not repeatedly witnessed it.

In an article in "The Review of Reviews," Henry McFarland has this to say of Secretary Hay:

Colonel Hay's great good fortune, the cornerstone of his success, was his early association with Abraham Lincoln. He is the only survivor in prominent place of Lincoln's men, and is distinguished from other public

men by the characteristics which he developed under Lincoln's training. What he learned from "the first American" in the intimate association of the four most heroic years of our history has proved to be more important to him than all that he has learned from all other sources. The principles and methods, both in politics and statesmanship, which he learned from Lincoln have been of invaluable service to him, and in the almost filial relation existing between him and the martyr President Colonel Hay absorbed much of the spirit and character of his master, the greatest American, the greatest statesman, the greatest man of his time.

His marriage, which brought him wealth, made a great change in Colonel Hay's circumstances, but it made no change in the man himself. The virility of his character successfully resisted the temptation to become a dilettante or a mere society man. Colonel Hay has retained all the energetic and ambitious, manly man that he was, neither weakened by luxury nor made snobbish by the unconscious arrogance of conscious wealth. Although the spur of poverty was removed, he worked as hard as ever, and improved the new opportunities which his marriage brought of gratifying his literary, social and political ambitions.

Until President McKinley, at the beginning of his administration, appointed Colonel Hay Ambassador to Great Britain he had not been conspicuous in public life. The policy of benevolence was because of his long and devoted service, and indeed retiring, he had avoided prominence, declined public office and kept out of the newspaper world. For during all those years, however, he had been working in literature and meeting all social demands especially with a gracious hospitality. Colonel Hay was a power in politics, more rather than less, important because he worked so quietly behind the scenes. He appeared from time to time on the Republican stump to make speeches notable for their cleverness, clearness and cogency, but he was never conspicuous in public life. He was a power in the inner councils of the Republican party, his influence was potent, and the party managers renew how freely they gave him time, his money for the success of his principles and candidates. President McKinley was long his candidate for the Presidency, and he thoroughly appreciated the value of the services which he rendered to the party.

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"I consider it of special value in keeping the body in such healthy condition that it throws off disease, thus saving doctor bills and the annoyances incident to sickness in the home."

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